

AMERICAN CAST IRON PIPE CO.  
(ACIPCO)  
Birmingham Industrial District  
1501 31st Ave. North  
Birmingham  
Jefferson County  
Alabama

HAER No. AL-35

HAER  
ALA  
37-BIRM  
27-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO  
AMERICAN CAST IRON PIPE COMPANY PLANT  
(ACIPCO)  
Birmingham Industrial District  
1501 Thirty-first Avenue North  
Birmingham  
Jefferson County  
Alabama

HAER No. AL-35

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Location: Entrance Gate: 1501 31st Avenue North, North Birmingham, plant and storage yard extends westward from I 65 to US 78 to north of Finley Avenue. Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama (555 acres). To reach the ACIPCO plant entrance from the Birmingham City Center, take 26th Street North to 30th Avenue North; turn left on 30th and proceed to the ACIPCO plants.

Date of  
Construction: 1906-1990s

Builder/Architect/  
Engineer: Multiple

Present  
Owner: ACIPCO

Project  
Information: This report is based upon written documentation donated by the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Significance: From its inception in 1905, the company established a tradition for innovative pipemaking practices. During World War I, ACIPCO experimented with the direct delivery of molten pig iron from the blast furnaces of Republic Steel Corporation's Thomas plant to its pipemaking foundry. In the early 1920s when the Birmingham District led the industry in the adoption of centrifugal casting techniques, ACIPCO developed the Moore method of centrifugal casting in sand-lined molds. Company President John J. Eagan's Plan of Business Administration, which became permanent company policy in 1924, featured employee profit sharing. Eagan's profit sharing idea became a model widely emulated in American industry.

In 1905, southern investors organized and wholly financed ACIPCO in Atlanta. They selected Birmingham as the site for a new pipe plant and in 1906 constructed a pipe foundry, powerhouse and machine shop and "Quarters for about 40 black families. Guided by John J. Eagan, principal stockholder and first president, the company succeeded from the start. Under Eagan's

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leadership, it also inaugurated a now-celebrated program of corporate welfare benefits. The first of these benefits was a bathhouse constructed in 1912 at the plant site. In 1921, Eagan brought workers into corporate management and, in 1922, created a profit-sharing arrangement. At his death, he created a permanent trust of all the company's common stock. ACIPCO's operation has continued as a beneficial trust ever since.

**Sources Consulted**

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